

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 TRSE-00  
OMB-01 EB-08 HA-05 IO-13 /092 W  
-----127430 121126Z /11

O R 121025Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7996  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PDIP, ETRD, EAIR, TH, VM  
SUBJ: SRV FONMIN NGUYEN DUY TRINH CONCLUDES VISIT TO THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 0928

1. SUMMARY: JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED JAN 12 AT END OF SRV FONMIN  
NGUYEN DUY TRINH VISIT TO BANGKOK STATES THAT EMBASSIES WILL  
BE OPENED SOON, POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINKS NORMALIZED,  
AND PROBLEMS BETWEEN THAILAND AND VIET-NAM RESOLVED THROUGH  
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PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS. VIETNAMESE DEPUTY FONMIN POINTED TO  
VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEM, DISPOSITION OF AIRCRAFT FLOWN TO  
THAILAND AFTER THE COMMUNIST TAKEOVER, AND THAI PROPERTY IN  
HO CHI MINH CITY AS ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED AFTER ESTABLISHMENT OF  
EMBASSIES. AS ANNOUNCED EARLIER, CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT AND  
A BROAD TRADE-ECONOMIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION PACT WERE ALSO  
SIGNED. ATMOSPHERE OF VISIT WAS EXTREMELY CORDIAL, AND BOTH

SIDES, AT LEAST PUBLICLY, APPEAR TO REGARD THE VISIT AS A BIG SUCCESS. END SUMMARY.

2. BY ALL ACCOUNTS, VISIT JAN 9-12 BY SRV DEP PM AND FONMIN NGUYEN DUY TRINH TO THAILAND HAS BEEN A SUCCESS. VISIT ENDED JAN 12 WITH ISSUANCE OF A COMMUNIQUE WHICH INDICATED THAT THAILAND AND VIET-NAM HAVE AGREED TO OPEN EMBASSIES AND EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THEY AGREED TO "RESOLVE OUTSTANDING BILATERAL QUESTIONS WITHIN THE LIMITS OF EACH OTHER'S CAPABILITIES, IN A PEACEFUL AND FRIENDLY MANNER, AS ENVISAGED IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF AUGUST 6, 1976." BOTH SIDES "RE-AFFIRMED THAT THE POLITICAL SYSTEM OF EITHER COUNTRY WAS SOLELY THE INTERNAL AFFAIR OF THAT COUNTRY." BOTH SIDES AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO NORMALIZE POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES. COMMUNIQUE ALSO INDICATED AGREEMENT ON THE DESIRABILITY OF HOLDING TALKS ON THE QUESTION OF DELINEATING MARITIME BOUNDARIES (PRESUMABLY IN GULF OF THAILAND). TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE COMMUNIQUE, HQNOI AND BANGKOK FORMALLY SIGNED A CIVIL AVIATION ACCORD (BANGKOK 0913) WHICH CURRENTLY GIVES A HALF-HOUR ADVANTAGE TO THAI PLANES ON THE BANGKOK-HONG KONG ROUTE. AGREEMENT WILL PERMIT AIRLINES OF BOTH NATIONS TO FLY BANGKOK-VIENTIANE-HANOI, VICE VERSA AND BEYOND, IN BOTH DIRECTIONS, AS SOON AS LAOS JOINS IN THE AGREEMENT, AS IS EXPECTED NEXT MONTH.

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4. OF EVEN GREATER POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE WAS CONCLUSION OF A TRADE-ECONOMIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT, WHICH ACCORDING TO A JOINT PRESS RELEASE, WILL "PAVE THE WAY FOR EXPANSION OF TRADE AND THE PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN FORCE IN EACH COUNTRY." ALTHOUGH NO SPECIFIC COMMODITIES HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON, THAI OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT THAILAND MIGHT PURCHASE SUCH ITEMS AS MARINE PRODUCTS AND PERTILIZER, WHILE VIET-NAM WAS INTERESTED IN BUYING RICE, TEXTILE PRODUCTS, AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS. REGARDING TECHNICAL COOPERATION, FONMIN UPPADIT TOLD THE PRESS, JOVIALY, THAT THAILAND MIGHT ASSIST VIET-NAM IN DEVELOPING CULTIVATION OF GRAPES WHICH THAI LEARNED FROM FRANCE. VIETNAMESE ARE ALSO THOUGHT TO BE INTERESTED IN THAI ASSISTANCE IN PRODUCING CEMENT.

5. BOTH SIDES INDICATED THAT EMBASSIES WOULD OPEN SOON, THE SRV IN THE FORMER GVN BUILDING AND THAILAND IN ACCOMMODATIONS TO BE IDENTIFIED BY A THAI TEAM WHICH WILL SOON VISIT HANOI (PROBABLY INITIALLY IN A HOTEL, LIKE MANY OTHER MISSIONS IN HANOI).

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6. IN A NEWS CONFERENCE JAN 11, FONMIN UPPADIT SAID, REGARDING ASEAN, THAT AN ALLEGED VIETNAMESE SUGGESTION THAT THE NAME OF ASEAN BE CHANGED WAS NOT EVEN MENTIONED. UPPADIT SAID HE FOUND THE VIETNAMESE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO ASEAN AS EVIDENCED BY TRINH'S VISITS TO FOUR ASEAN NATIONS. WITHOUT REVEALING ANY DETAILS OF THEIR DISCUSSION, UPPADIT CONFIRMED THAT THE BORDER FIGHTING BETWEEN CAMBODIA AND VIET-NAM WAS BROUGHT UP, WITH THAILAND EXPRESSING HOPE FOR PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS TO SETTLE THE CONFLICT. UPPADIT SAID THAT FONMIN TRINH HAD PROPOSED CONCLUSION OF THE TRADE PACT. REGARDING THE DIFFICULT ISSUE OF  
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REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN THAILAND FROM THE FRENCH INDOCHINA WAR, UPPADIT SAID THE ISSUE WAS NOT DISCUSSED BUT WOULD BE A SUBJECT OF CONSULTATIONS AFTER EMBASSIES ARE OPENED.

7. IN A SEPARATE PRESS CONFERENCE JAN 12 BY SRV DEPUTY FONMIN VO DONG GIANG, GIANG CITED AS OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS THE QUESTIONS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN THAILAND, "VIETNAMESE AIRCRAFT" FLOWN INTO THAILAND AFTER THE COMMUNIST TAKEOVER IN 1975, AND THE PROPERTY OF THE THAI EMBASSY IN HO CHI MINH CITY. ON THE REFUGEE PROBLEM, GIANG INDICATED THAT THE QUESTION MUST BE SEPARATED INTO THOSE REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED IN THAILAND MANY YEARS AGO AND THOSE WHO HAVE FLED SINCE THE COMMUNIST TAKEOVER. LATTER WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE REPATRIATED, HE SAID. REGARDING REFUGEES OF LONG DURATION IN THAILAND, GIANG SAID THAT THEY HAVE TAKEN WORK AND BECOME LAW ABIDING THAI CITIZENS. A JOINT COMMITTEE WILL BE SET UP, HE SAID, TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM IN THE SPIRIT OF THE 1976 COMMUNIQUE. IN ANOTHER INTERVIEW, GIANG IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT REFUGEES WOULD BE REPATRIATED ON AN INDIVIDUAL CASE BASIS. GIANG DID NOT COMMENT ON THE "VIETNAMESE AIRCRAFT" ISSUE OR THE THAI EMBASSY PROPERTY IN SAIGON. GIANG DISCUSSED AT LENGTH THE CAMBODIAN-VIETNAMESE CONFLICT IN THE SAME TERMS AS OTHER SRV STATEMENTS. HE CLAIMED THERE HAD BEEN NO RESPONSE FROM CAMBODIANS AT ALL TO VIETNAMESE CALL FOR NEGOTIATIONS. GIANG WAS RELIABLY OVERHEARD SAYING AFTER THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE TRINH VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES WAS PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL. (USIS IS TRANSLATING THE FULL INTERVIEW, WHICH WILL BE TRANSMITTED SEPARATELY.)

8. THE NOTEWORTHY AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED NOTWITHSTANDING, THE MOST REMARKABLE FACET OF THE OCCASION WAS THE ATMOSPHERE OF COOPERATIVENESS AND FRIENDLINESS WHICH CHARACTERIZED THE VISIT. HONORING THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION WITH AN AUDIENCE WITH HM KING BHUMIBOL IN CHIANG MAI SIGNALLED BANGKOK'S INTENTIONS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MOVE BEYOND THE PAST TOWARD A MORE FRUITFUL FUTURE. IN THIS VEIN, BOTH SIDES SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN PREPARED AND CARRIED THROUGH WITH JUST SUCH INTENTIONS.

9. THE PRESS FOLLOWED THIS LEAD AND SOUNDED SCARCELY A SOUR NOTE. REPORTING AND EDITORIALS WERE UPBEAT AND HOPEFUL REGARDING FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

10. COMMENT: WHILE WE WILL ASSESS SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS MADE DURING THE VISIT AFTER TAKING FURTHER READINGS, THE PUBLIC SIDE OF THE VISIT WAS MARKED BY CORDIALITY AND MUCH BRIGHTER PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE THAI-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS.  
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## Message Attributes

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